

URBAN FORESTS

At a Glance

Kentucky population living in urban settings
1990 1,779,947
2000 1,915,485

Communities with urban forest programs in Kentucky
1995 72
1999 126

Kentucky communities designated as a tree city USA
1995 31
1999 26

Indicator 13. Urban Forests

Background While Kentucky is typically thought of as a rural state, an estimated 48 percent of the population now lives in what is considered a metropolitan area.¹ The population of Kentuckians living in or near metropolitan areas rose from 1,779,947 in 1990 to 1,915,485—an increase of 135,538 in a 10 year period. This migration has caused a profound impact on existing natural resources and farmland surrounding urban areas. Interest has become high in providing forest settings such as parks, greenways and other lands to enhance recreational opportunities and improve the quality of life in urban and suburban communities.

Goal Develop and enhance urban forest programs throughout the state.

Progress The number of cities in Kentucky with urban forestry programs has doubled since 1993 and now stands at 126. In addition, 26 Kentucky communities are certified as a Tree City USA, thereby improving the natural environment for more than 31,000 residents. The Division of Forestry reports that its urban forestry program reaches nearly two-thirds of Kentucky's populations. The Division of Forestry provides technical assistance to individuals, service organizations, nonprofit groups, and communities in establishing Tree Boards, drafting tree ordinances, conducting street tree surveys, tree planting and maintenance and addressing insect and disease problems.

Federal Urban and Community Assistance Grants have assisted many Kentucky communities in developing local urban forestry programs. Since 1996, \$772,304 in assistance grants has been awarded to 140 urban forestry projects across the state. These grants have funded a variety of projects including a master plan for protecting open spaces and water resources in Elizabethtown, an outdoor environmental education center in Estill County and a number of demonstration planting projects in various communities.

Footnotes

1. Inside and outside a central city. Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census.

Measures - notes and sources

Measure 1. Source: Ky. Division of Forestry

Measure 1. Urban Forest Programs in Kentucky

